

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 16-30 are pending in the application. Claims 29 and 30 are presently withdrawn.

In the Office Action dated March 7, 2007, claims 16-28 were deemed indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 16-28 were also considered anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by International Patent Application Publication No. WO 01/70555 ("Weeber et al."). Furthermore, the drawings were objected to based on formal drafting requirements.

The March 7, 2007 Office Action and the Weeber et al. reference have been carefully considered. For the reasons below, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in form for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

As an initial matter, Applicant apologizes for any errors of syntax and related informalities that may have arisen during translation of the original German priority document.

Referring to the claims as submitted in the preliminary amendment, claim 16 has been amended to replace the phrase "consisting of" with "comprising", as recommended in the Office Action. Claim 16 has also been amended to provide antecedent basis for the elements noted in the Office Action.

Claim 22 has been amended to recite a "speed sensor" so as to provide sufficient structure for detecting vehicle speed.

With regard to claim 23, Applicant refers to page 10, lines 13-23 of the substitute specification (clean copy), which explains the "steering recommendation." As noted in that section, and others, the "steering recommendation" refers to a steering assistance that is provided to the driver by displacing the center point of the characteristic curve. This displacement or "recommendation" provides greater steering assistance in the direction of displacement, favoring that direction.

Claim 28 has been amended to replace the "means" language with elements recited in claim 16, thereby resolving the antecedent basis concern.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Applicant has amended the claims, where appropriate, to delete the term "for" as suggested in the Office Action.

As a general matter, the claimed steering system provides a variable torque assistance based on a determined steering torque and an additional value based on a selected characteristic curve. In contrast, the system in Weeber et al. provides a variable torque assistance based on the vehicle's speed and input variables from the motor.

Claim 16 recites "a determination unit determining a steering torque and an evaluating and selecting circuit, by means of which a total value for applying the additional steering torque is determined in consideration of the determined steering torque or a quantity derived therefrom and a selected basic characteristic curve of steering (basic characteristic curve)." Weeber et al. does not disclose a determination unit and an evaluating and selecting circuit that determines a total value based on a selected characteristic curve. Instead, Weeber et al. calculates a total additional steering torque based on a three variables: vehicle road speed,

actual acceleration of the correction angle motor 5, and nominal acceleration of the correction angle motor 5. There is no selection of characteristic curves.

The Office Action fails to explain how Weeber et al. teaches a determination unit, and an evaluating and selecting circuit, as recited in claim 16. Moreover, the Office Action fails to explain how Weeber et al. teaches different predetermined characteristic curves (claim 17), a predefinable control variable ST (claim 19), a steering recommendation (claim 23), or how the elements are designed as a module at a steering-wheel-side end portion of the steering valve (claim 28). Reconsideration of these rejections is respectfully requested.

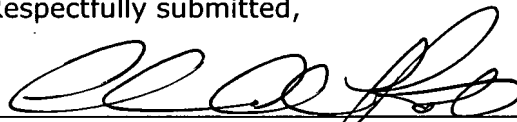
Drawings

In response to the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review, corrected drawing sheets are being filed concurrently herewith.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is believed to be in form for allowance. If the examiner believes that there are any outstanding issues precluding allowance at this time, the examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's representative, Christopher A. Rothe, at 610-407-0700.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: Figures 1-9 (9 sheets)

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